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The Voice of the Farmer

To the Editor of The Observer:

Imagination enables many to free themselves from sacred duties, and that sheer love of mental indolence renders them indifferent to the distress of humanity, which they not only allow to proceed on its downward course, but to speed on its way to destruction, by taking part in the misleading of mankind.

Let us take the silk industry, and its products, as an example. We shall find that silk goods are so heavily loaded down with chemicals that they can scarcely be called silk. The manufacturers declare that the public wants heavy silks without being willing to pay a fair price for them, and that this compels the manufacturers to make goods weighing two or three pounds from one pound of silk. Normally such goods are quickly worn out.

The silk worm was created to supply man with a healthful, elastic, lustrous material, but man has succeeded, by means of misleading artifices, in changing a natural product into an artificial one. And whenever all industries shall have been equally successful in changing natural products into artificial ones, mankind will have become an aggregation of deceived deceivers.

Now let us look at the chemical fertilizer works in the same way. These manufacturers claim in their catalogs and pamphlets that they sell fertilizers are meant to artificially stimulate the plants to produce vegetables and fruits very early in the season, so they may be brought early to market and sold at high prices. I give below from one of these catalogs, a so-called "guaranteed" analysis of a fertilizer which is claimed to be excellent for all kinds of vegetables and tobacco. The analysis reads as follows:

Ammonia.....10 to 11 per cent Soluble phosphates.....4 to 5 per cent Potash.....3 to 4 per cent

It is, however, an established fact that such a fertilizer produces poisonous plants and poisonous vegetables, causing a number of dangerous diseases. All diseases are disturbances of nutrition, due to injurious food. When a plant is grown in accordance with the laws of nature, or in other words, if it is nourished by the food which nature provided for it in the shape of disintegrated soil and rock, it receives all the nutritive substances it requires. When, on the other hand, artificial fertilizers supply only three of these substances, and these in enormous quantities, the plant becomes an artificial product, and, when used as food for human beings or animals, it causes the diseases from which mankind and animals suffer.

The adulteration of food stuffs is carried out on such an enormous scale that an almost superhuman knowledge or instinct is required to select, from among the many adulterated foods, the few articles which we may still use without danger of being poisoned. The chemical fertilizer works enrich themselves at the cost of the people, they undermine its health, and the chemical fertilizers which they produce, being manufactured without regard to the polaric laws, are merely breeders of parasites and disease.

The catalogs of such fertilizer works may serve to baffle the farmer's brain. How should they, or the gardeners, know that ammonia, phosphoric acid and potash cannot produce healthful foodstuffs? They see their plants grow luxuriously and that they bear large fruits. If the worms and weevils destroy their vegetables, and they quickly become spongy and decay, the farmers have only one remedy, viz., to sell quickly. They know that they must be taken to the market at once, even though but very little is received for them. The farmers never think of attributing this quick decay—this transformation of matter—to their chemical fertilizer, and they can find no explanation for such results. On another page of a chemical fertilizer catalog we find the following analysis under the heading, "Complete vegetable fertilizer":

Ammonia.....5 to 8 per cent Soluble phosphates.....6 to 8 per cent Potash.....6 to 4 per cent

This constitutes another of these poisonous products, which certainly produce large profits for the manufacturer, but which are a fraud on the farmer and upon humanity at large. How could it be possible for the farmer to obtain a clear insight into such matters, if he is told on one page of the catalog that, for vegetable growing, 10 per cent is the right proportion of ammonia, while on the next page he is earnestly advised to use, for the same purpose, a fertilizer containing only 5 per cent?

How could it be possible for almost the whole of modern humankind to suffer from some disease or other, if there were not a well defined reason for it?

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It Is the Safest and Sanest

If Roosevelt were president this country would be in a war almost as terrible as the European conflict. While some Democrats do not believe in "watchful waiting," as practiced by Wilson, still it is the sanest and best policy after all. The man who is always looking for a scrap can get it, but Wilson has been side-stepping all matters that look like trouble.—Atchison County Mail.

So They Can Get a Drink

The liquor business is kicked from one county to another and from one state to another. But the funny thing about it is when one county kicks it out there are a lot of people who hope it won't go too far away, and rather hope that the county next to them will tolerate it so they can slip across the line and get a drink occasionally. —Maysville Pilot.

ONLY ONE ROAD TO SUCCESS

Choose Your Work According to Your Qualifications and Have Confidence in Your Ability.

The woman who believes in herself can accomplish things that to her timid-minded sister would be impossible. Perhaps nowhere is confidence so essential as in the business world, and the girl or woman who aspires to a business career, yet has no confidence in her ability to succeed, had better seek some other means of livelihood.

A seemingly impossible task may confront one, but should the person to whom such a task falls lose confidence the result nine times out of ten is failure. Most difficulties are difficulties on the surface only. Confidence, grit and common sense are a trio that cannot be beaten. Why not apply a generous application of all three to the difficulty which looms up before you and make you faint hearted and almost helpless?

The most successful people in all lines of human endeavor are, as a rule, people who believe in themselves. Many of these people have few advantages, but by sheer will power—confidence in their ability—they succeed. Confidence is needed more today than ever before.

It's an old saw, and a true one, that "you cannot fit a square peg into a round hole." Many women are doing, or trying to do, work for which they are not fitted. The girl who has an aptitude for sewing, can blend colors harmoniously and knows what good lines are, should never be advised to study stenography. Such a girl would develop into a first-class dressmaker, but as a stenographer she would never reach a very high standard.

Such women—the right women in the wrong work—always lack confidence; yet the wise person will study her qualifications, and if she finds herself not equal to the work she has accepted, will try to secure a position suited to her ability.

Most of us can do something fairly well, and if we find the work congenial, the only logical course to follow is to bring our very best efforts into that work, and we must believe in ourselves if the work is to be done smoothly and well.

Study your ability; improve; believe in yourself, and you will surely succeed. Women who have confidence are generally successful and happy women. We all want to be both. From past experience you know how doubt has retarded your ability. Then use will power—believe in yourself, and life will be worth while.—Philadelphia Bulletin.

Fish Got Lighted Cigar.

Not only are the pickers biting ravenously at Little Creek pond, in Sussex county, N. J., but it was discovered recently that these big fellows have formed a bad habit calling for the corrective activities of our own Doctor Pease.

John Avery, a cigarmaker; Edward Martin, Jr., and Louis Rumsey, all of Union Hill, went to the pond the other day to fish. They had just cut a hole in the ice and were baiting their hooks when Avery accidentally dropped a lighted and self-smoked cigar into the hole.

Instantly, he said, a big pickerel shot to the surface and gulped the cigar. A moment later Mr. Avery dropped his hook and line into the hole and in a few seconds there was a violent tugging at the line. He pulled, and out came a pickerel almost a yard long. As Mr. Avery started to pry his hook from the big fellow's mouth he said he found his half-smoked cigar, still lighted, in the pickerel's mouth. Mr. Martin and Mr. Rumsey confirmed Mr. Avery's narrative, except they weren't certain the cigar was lighted. —New York Herald.

Activities of Women.

On the marriage of a woman in England she adopts the same nationality as her husband.

A New Orleans national bank has elected two women as members of its board of directors. Mrs. Ida McQuesten, recently elected head of the public schools of Tacoma, Wash., is the first woman to ever hold the position.

Over 30,000 women have taken the places of men in France, thus enabling 81 per cent of the factories in that country to run on full time.

Miss Fanny Bixley, daughter of a millionaire land owner of California, has for several years acted as a special police and probation officer at Long Beach, Cal., where she lives.

The Colony Club building in New York has inaugurated a novel feature for women. It is a checking room with maids and kennels for the safe and sanitary housing of the members' pet dogs while their mistresses are enjoying the privileges of the club.

Jews as Farmers.

The back-to-the-farm movement among American Jews is being pushed with the energy and ability for which the race is noted, and the 50,000 Jewish farmers now so engaged are doubtless but the pioneers of an army of peace which in a few years will number many hundred thousand. In the opinion of a prominent delegate to the recent conference of Jewish farmers in New York city the Jews engaged in farming in this country are doing more good by blazing the pathway of practical agriculture for the immigrant than the 1,000,000 Jewish people engaged in business, the arts and professions. "That is rather over-stating it, no doubt, but it is over-stating an important truth," according to another commentator.

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